

What is claimed is:

1. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding vitamin D nuclear receptor, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with said nucleic acid molecule encoding vitamin D nuclear receptor and inhibits the expression of vitamin D nuclear receptor.

2. The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has a sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 59, 60, 62, 63, 66, 67, 68, 72, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 85, 88, 90 or 91.

4. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5. The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7. The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxethyl sugar moiety.

8. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligoribonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

9. The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

11. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding vitamin D nuclear receptor.

12. A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15. A method of inhibiting the expression of vitamin D nuclear receptor in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of vitamin D nuclear receptor is inhibited.

16. A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with vitamin D nuclear receptor comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of vitamin D nuclear receptor is inhibited.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is cancer.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is a developmental disorder.

19. The compound of claim 1 targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding vitamin D nuclear receptor, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with and differentially inhibits the expression of one of the variants of vitamin D nuclear receptor relative to the remaining variants of vitamin D nuclear receptor.

20. The compound of claim 19 targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding vitamin D nuclear receptor, wherein said compound hybridizes with and specifically inhibits the expression of a variant of vitamin D nuclear receptor, wherein said variant is selected from the group consisting of VDR-type I, VDR-type-II, VDR-type III and VDR-type IV.